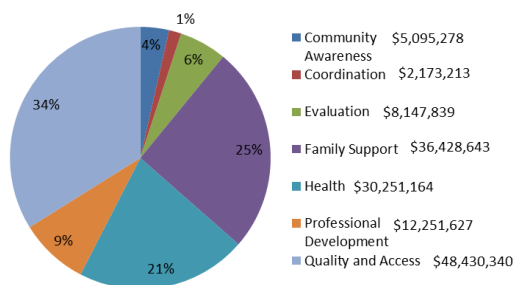


## FY 2012 REGIONAL FUNDING PLANS APPROVED

The Board approved the Fiscal Year 2012 Funding Plans for all 31 Regional Partnership Councils. The plans represent a \$143 million commitment to services for kids 5 years old and younger in seven major areas:

- ★ **Quality, Access and Affordability** – including child care scholarships, Quality First, and Pre-K expansion
- ★ **Professional Development** – including TEACH scholarships, Professional REWARD\$ and community-based ECE training
- ★ **Family Support** – including home visitation, family resource centers, and community-based parent training and literacy programs
- ★ **Health** – including Child Care Health Consultation, Mental Health Consultation, oral health programs, and developmental and sensory screening
- ★ **Coordination** – including service coordination, court teams and community partnerships
- ★ **Community Awareness** – including community outreach
- ★ **Evaluation** – including Needs & Assets Reports and program evaluation

SFY12 Allotments \$143,048,103



"I am thrilled to see the work represented in these funding plans," Executive Director Rhian Evans Allvin said, "and I just want to commend our staff for the hours and hours and hours they took connecting best practices and national models with what we know needs to be local and relevant to our communities. I would also like to commend our volunteers. Since the beginning of FTF, we're well over 60,000 hours of volunteer time spent. We are so appreciative for the time spent developing programs and the attention paid to make sure we are good financial stewards."

Member Nadine Mathis Basha agreed: "Having listened to these plans, we see a lot of great progress in the regions."

## WELCOME SUPERINTENDENT JOHN HUPPENTHAL

Chair Steve Lynn welcomed State Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal to the statewide Board. State law allows the State Superintendent, the Director of the Department of Economic Security and the Director of the Department of Health Services – or their designees – to serve on the statewide Board as ex-officio, non-voting members. "I look forward to being a part of [FTF]. We all agree that the early childhood years are the most critical years of a child's development," Supt. Huppenthal said. "If we come together as a team, I'm confident we can pave a better future for Arizona and our kids."



## NATIONAL SPEAKER EMPHASIZES EARLY CHILDHOOD'S ROLE IN STATE ECONOMY

The Board meeting convened immediately after FTF's third *Issues in Public Policy* forum. The events coincide with state Board meetings and highlight early childhood development and health policy issues. Mike Petro, Vice President and Director of Business and Government Relations for the Washington, D.C.-based Committee for Economic Development, discussed the importance of early childhood development from a business perspective.

Speaking to an audience of Board members, Arizona legislators and business leaders at the Phoenix Country Club, Petro illustrated how brain development peaks during the first 5 years of life while, at the same time, public funding flat lines until the age of 6. He described the concern, in boardrooms across the nation, over American students' lagging test scores, and fear that employers will be unable to find qualified workers as jobs become more knowledge-based, and markets become more globally competitive. Petro urged business leaders to become vocal advocates for early childhood education, and reminded legislators not to cut programs and forsake our economic future for short-term budgetary gains. Chairman Steve Lynn praised Petro's presentation: "It was nice to have someone from the business community reinforce just how important the investment in early childhood development is."

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Executive Director Rhian Evans Allvin called the Board's attention to new FTF billboards, visible in downtown Phoenix, along the I-10 and I-17 freeways, and in the rural areas. The billboards are not part of FTF's fall or spring media buys. FTF's billboard providers filled unsold space with the artwork they liked best, including FTF's "Ready for School. Set for Life." It is exciting to see that our superior campaign design has earned FTF free extra billboard visibility.

Director Allvin reported that the Board Committees are moving forward. Board committees help advise and monitor FTF's strategies in Program, Finance, Communications & Government Affairs. The committees include Board members, regional council members and community leaders. In January, the Finance Committee met for the first time, as did sub-committees in various Program areas, including Early Learning, Health and Family Support.

Director Allvin praised the diverse make-up of each committee and expressed confidence in their abilities. The first charge for the Program sub-committees will be to take the priorities established by the Early Childhood Task Force and make recommendations on indicators by August.

Board Member Nadine Mathis Basha, chair of the Finance Committee, congratulated the FTF staff, particularly FTF Deputy Director for Operations Josh Allen, for their work in making FTF's finances transparent. Member Basha's committee members were impressed by the quality of their work. "The more they know of us, the more they love us," she said. "That tells us we're doing the right thing."

Director Allvin reminded Board members that Governor Jan Brewer's administration released its budget recommendation on January 14. There are several note-worthy items in the budget that FTF will monitor, including:

- Child care subsidies are held harmless in FY2011 and FY2012.
- The KidsCare hard cap remains intact. No additional enrollments will be made, and the existing rolls are plummeting.
- The budget hinges on the federal government's acceptance of a waiver that would allow Arizona to deny Medicaid health insurance coverage to an estimated 280,000 people. It is unclear exactly how many children might be impacted by this measure.

### BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

**Member Vivian Saunders** congratulated **Chairman Lynn** for recently being honored by the American/Israel Friendship League. Chairman Lynn received a 2,000 year-old oil lamp from the Holy Land in appreciation for his service.

**Board Member Mary Ellen Cunningham** announced that, in the wake of this month's tragedy in Tucson, the Arizona Department of Health Service's Behavioral Disaster Team has posted a diagnostic matrix on their website ([azdhs.gov/bhs](http://azdhs.gov/bhs)). People who have mental health concerns—or know somebody who does—can consult the matrix for information on what to do and when.

Member Cunningham also reminded the Board the last week of April is National Infant Immunization Week. The focus this year will be protecting infants from pertussis (whooping cough).

Member Cunningham also announced that the Department of Health Services has become a sponsor for Baby Steps for Baby Friendly, an organizational initiative to encourage breast feeding. She indicated that Arizona's birthing hospitals are coming on board to promote breast feeding.

**Dr. Pamela Powell** reminded the Board about the National Association for the Education of Young Children's *Week of the Young Child*, an annual celebration of children, April 10–16. This year's theme is "The Early Years are Learning Years." She encouraged everyone to get in touch with their local NAEYC chapter (or find it at [naeyc.org](http://naeyc.org)) and participate in local events.



### TRIBAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

FTF has joined the Arizona Dental Association, various state agencies and non-profit organizations in planning meetings for the upcoming American Indian Oral Health Summit. The April event will include a session that highlights FTF-funded oral health strategies in Tribal communities.

In December, FTF partnered with Zero to Three to coordinate the very first Infant and Toddler Roundtable. The Roundtable was designed to provide information to Tribal Child Care Development Fund Directors on early learning strategies, Quality First, professional development and current FTF-funded Tribal regional strategies.



**Save the date!** The next FTF Board meeting will be held April 4 & 5 in Show Low.

### NEW REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Board approved the following new regional council members at its December 2010 and January 2011 meetings:

#### Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council

- Michelle Hernandez, Business

#### Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council

- Patricia Rodriguez-Weissenberg, School Administrator

#### North Pima Regional Partnership Council

- Sherri Rosalik, School Administrator

#### Central Pima Regional Partnership Council

- Teri Melendez, School Administrator

#### Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council

- Juanita Ayala, At-Large

#### South Pima Regional Partnership Council

- Nathan McCann, At-Large

#### Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council

- Harry Martin, School Administrator

#### Sal River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Regional Partnership Council

- Virginia Loring, Business

